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LETTER DATED 3 DECEMBER 1993 FROM THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Over the course of this past week, the Mission of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina has received several reports from both the Mayor of Tuzla and the Commander of the Territorial Defence Forces of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Tuzla region, which state that Serbian forces have attacked the city and towns (Teocak, Kalesija, Kladanj and others) around it. These attacks have exposed the civilian population in the area to catastrophe and are in flagrant contravention of several Security Council resolutions. Further, General Ratko Mladić, commander of Belgrade's forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina, appeared on Belgrade television shortly before the initial attack, which took place on 24 November, and explicitly and publicly made it known that Tuzla, and its chemical production plant, were possible targets of attack. Regrettably, these threats have been carried out, with severity.

On 24 November, at 1911, after a period of relative calm, a Russian "Cosmos" rocket (ground-to-ground and self-propelled) was fired at and landed within the Tuzla city limits.

On 26 November at 1131, a Serbian plane dropped two cassette bombs on the town of Tojsici. At 2129, three artillery shells landed in Tuzla, and at 2202, three shells fell on the outskirts of Tuzla while three more fell on the town of Gornja Tuzla.

The following day, at 2311, four shells hit the eastern part of the city, while on 28 November, at 840, a tank fired three shells at the town of Vukovije. Later that morning, at 1050, a Serbian plane dropped a cluster bomb on the area between the towns of Kalesija and Vukovije. At 1505, three "Volkov" rockets were fired at a densely populated neighbourhood in Tuzla.

On 29 November, several shells fell throughout the city. This Serbian attack was followed the next day by an attack involving a Serbian plane which fired three air-to-ground rockets at the town of Kalesija and moments later a rocket of the same type was fired at Tuzla by the same plane. Later in the day, at 1706 and 1905, two shells landed in the city centre at the times indicated.

On 1 December, at 2115, from the direction of Korenita Strana near the town of Koraj, Serbian forces fired two "Volkov" rockets in the direction of the chemical plant complex. One rocket landed a few hundred metres north of the complex while the other landed within the fenced-in area of the complex. Fortunately, this rocket did not hit the storage tanks holding the chlorine and other chemicals, and a major humanitarian and ecological disaster did not occur. These artillery attacks were conducted in conjunction with aerial attacks carried out by Serbian planes which fired two rockets at the Tuzla city power station, but missed. However, on the following day, Serbian forces fired a "Volkov" missile which did hit the power plant and caused such tremendous damage that it is no longer able to function. As such, for the first time since the aggression against our sovereign and independent country began, Tuzla is without electricity, heating and running water.

It must be brought to the attention of the international community that the Serbian forces that conducted these attacks against the free region of Tuzla received their tools of destruction and murder, as they have throughout this fascist aggression, directly from Serbia and Montenegro. Also, Serbian forces from the town of Janje (between Zvornik and Bjelina) have been mobilized to the Tuzla-Brcko region, and a thousand coffins have been prepared for the expected number of dead. Given the intensity of Serbian attacks this past week, their destructive results and the ongoing mobilization of Serbian forces to the region, it can only be expected that the military and humanitarian situation will deteriorate.

It should also be noted that if international humanitarian assistance convoys were allowed to pass from Serbia into Bosnia in the area of Zvornik, international observers would be present to witness both the flow of arms from Serbia to Bosnia as well as the ongoing mobilization of Serbian forces in the region. As such, Serbian forces on both sides of the Bosnian and Serbian border have prevented international convoys from going through.

These attacks are blatant violations of the relevant Security Council "safe area" and "no-fly-zone" resolutions, and we request that all measures be taken towards their implementation. Also, as per the request of the Mayor of Tuzla, we ask that the Security Council send a team of international experts to Tuzla to assess the potential humanitarian and ecological consequences if the chemical plant is hit by artillery.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ivan Z. MISIĆ
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative